



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 71

February Session, 2014



AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR BOATING AND HUNTING SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 15-140e of the 2014 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in
3 lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) A safe boating certificate shall be issued under subsection (a) of
5 this section to any applicant regardless of age who provides proof that
6 such applicant has: (1) Successfully completed a classroom or online
7 course in safe boating operation approved by the Commissioner of
8 Energy and Environmental Protection, which courses may include
9 those offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast Guard
10 Auxiliary or other organizations, or (2) successfully passed an
11 equivalency examination testing knowledge of safe boating operation
12 administered by the commissioner.

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 15-140f of the general statutes is
14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
15 *passage*):

16 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
17 shall formulate classroom and online courses in safe boating operation.

18 Sec. 3. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 15-140j of the general
19 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
20 (*Effective from passage*):

21 (c) A certificate of personal watercraft operation shall be issued
22 under subsection (b) of this section to any applicant who provides
23 proof that such applicant has: (1) Successfully completed a combined
24 course in safe boating operation and safe personal watercraft handling
25 approved by the commissioner, which courses include, but are not
26 limited to, classroom or online courses offered by the United States
27 Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary or other similar
28 organization, (2) been issued or has satisfied the requirements for
29 issuance of a safe boating certificate and successfully completed a
30 course in safe personal watercraft handling approved by the
31 commissioner, which include, but are not limited to, classroom or
32 online courses offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast
33 Guard Auxiliary or other similar organization, or (3) successfully
34 passed an equivalency examination testing knowledge of safe boating
35 operation and safe personal watercraft handling administered by the
36 commissioner.

37 (d) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
38 the provisions of chapter 54, establishing the content of classroom and
39 online courses in safe personal watercraft handling. Such regulations
40 may include provisions for examinations, issuance of certificates of
41 personal watercraft operation and establishment of a reasonable fee for
42 such course and examination and for the issuance of a certificate and
43 duplicate certificate.

44 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 26-31 of the general statutes is
45 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
46 *passage*):

47 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
48 shall formulate conservation courses of instruction in safe trapping,
49 hunting and archery practices and the handling and use of traps and

50 hunting implements, including bow and arrow, for such persons as are
 51 applying for a license to hunt with firearms or to hunt with bow and
 52 arrow or trap for the first time and for minors who fall within the
 53 provisions of section 26-38, and shall designate one or more competent
 54 persons or organizations to give such instruction. Any person or
 55 organization so designated shall give such instruction online or in a
 56 classroom to any person requesting the same and shall, upon the
 57 successful completion thereof, recommend to the commissioner
 58 issuance of a certificate of completion to such person. Successful
 59 completion of such instruction for hunting license applicants shall
 60 include, but not be limited to, achieving a passing grade on an
 61 examination formulated by the commissioner, which shall include
 62 correctly stating in writing, or reciting orally, the regulations for
 63 hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic
 64 animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials and
 65 the regulations for shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.
 66 Any such person or organization may charge any person taking the
 67 course of instruction in trapping a reasonable fee, established by
 68 regulation adopted by the commissioner in accordance with chapter
 69 54, to cover the cost of supplies, materials and equipment necessary for
 70 such course of instruction. [No fee shall] A fee may be charged for a
 71 course of instruction in hunting or archery.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-140e(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	15-140f(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	15-140j(c) and (d)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	26-31(a)

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*